

## DECISION GIVEN

PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED IN  
RULING OF DEPARTMENT

### INDIAN AGENT STOPS THE SALE OF LAND

**Petitioner Recited She Was a Freedman, While Rolls Showed She Was Listed as a Half Blood—Matter Determines Who Can Sell Land**

**MUSKOGEE:** The most important decision given out by the interior department was the one recently decided establishing the precedent which the land buyers have been longing for ever since the restrictions were removed from the freedmen's land in the territory.

The trouble has been that the bill read, "And all allottees not of Indian blood, etc., shall have the right to sell their lands without restriction," and the fact that there were a good many citizens who were enrolled as freedmen, but had Indian blood in their veins, kept the land buyers guessing whether to buy land of the freedman who was of Indian blood, and many of them would not buy at all, as the banks would not make loans on the land bought from a freedman who was of Indian blood.

The following is the first time the department of the interior has ever made any decision on the question, and is a letter written to Rhoda Cook of Haynes, I. T., who admitted in her petition that she was at least one-half Creek Indian:

Department of the Interior, United States Indian Service, Union Agency—Rhoda Cook, Haynes, I. T.: Dear Madam—June 8, 1904, I submitted your petition for the sale of a portion of your allotment in the Creek nation, described as the north half of the northeast quarter of section 23, township 18, north, range 17 east, 80 acres.

It appears that you are a Creek freedman, and your name appears on the approved partial roll of Creek freedmen opposite No. 3772.

In your letter accompanying your said petition you state that you are "as much as one-half Creek Indian by blood."

The petition and all the papers received therewith were transmitted to the department, which, in returning the same, states that under the law the commission to the five tribes and the department have the authority to determine whether applicants for citizenship in the Creek nation are entitled to enrollment as freedmen or as Indians by blood; that it has been determined that you were entitled to enrollment as a freedman, and that it was believed that in the meaning of the law you are a Creek freedman and have a right to dispose of your land without departmental supervision. Under these circumstances you will not be permitted to list your land for sale under the regulations of July 10, 1903. Very respectfully,

J. BLAIR SHOENFELT,  
United States Indian Agent.

### SLOCUM VICTIMS

**Total List of Dead Is Given as 958 in the Final Report**

**NEW YORK:** The total dead in the destruction of the excursion steamer General Slocum on June 15 is given as 958 in the final report presented to Police Commissioner McAdoo by the inspectors in charge of the investigation by the police department. Only 897 of the dead were identified, 62 were reported missing and 61 unidentified, while 180 were injured, and only 235 out of the nearly 1,400 on the steamer escaped injury. Assuming that the unidentified dead are among the missing, all but one has been thus accounted for.

## LAST YEAR OF EXISTENCE

**Dawes Commission Preparing to go out of Business**

**ARDMORE:** The Dawes commission is entering upon the last year of its existence and the commissioners are rushing matters as fast as possible. It is thought by the time the commission expires July 1, 1905, the work will have reached that stage where the government can wind up the Indian affairs without the aid of the entire board. It is probable that an experienced man will be appointed to look after the odds and ends incident to the closing up of tribal affairs. It is regarded as improbable that complications will arise after the dissolution of the board, the well defined policy of the commission being so thoroughly established, and the allotment of lands being complete, would have little room for entanglement. However, it is said in the event that there should be trouble it would be one of a tribal nature and would not be attended by the same consideration given the commission by the government, when a policy for the future guidance of the people was being outlined.

In the Chickasaw nation it is learned that 80 per cent of the allotments have been completed. The work of arbitrarily allotting the lands in this nation is now going on and the field party is working very fast. In the other nations the work is well in hand.

It is thought that the appropriation made by the last congress will be sufficient to carry out the plans of the Dawes commission. New rules have been established, which are radically different from the old ones. One of the principal rules provide that before any employe can draw his salary he must take oath that he is not a member of any corporation or organization which is dealing in Indian lands, and that he is not speculating in lands himself.

### CATTLE DYING RAPIDLY

**Farmers Near Perry Report That Texas Fever Is Killing Live Stock**

**GUTHRIE:** The attention of the Oklahoma live stock commission has been called to the attention of cattle along the quarantine line which separates the Otoe Indian pastures from the main portion of the territory. Farmers and cattlemen north of Perry are up in arms, for their cattle are reported to be dying at a rapid rate as a result of Texas fever.

R. H. Hahn, territorial cattle inspector, has quarantined six different herds in as many different pastures, and his work is being continued unceasingly. There have been between thirty and forty head of cattle which have died from the fever within a week. Active preparations are being made by owners to construct dipping plants immediately. There are 1,800 head of cattle under quarantine at present. There is one bunch of 1,500 Texas cattle under quarantine. The rapid spread of the disease is what is worrying the Oklahoma owners.

Several head of Charles Holcomb's herd have also died as a result of cattle breaking across the line from the reservation.

### Only Beaumont Oil Can Be Used

**GUTHRIE:** Secretary Tom Morris of the Oklahoma Live Stock Sanitary Commission states that thus far no oil other than that found in a few wells in the Beaumont, Texas, district has been found that will do for use in killing the fever ticks on cattle. Other oils possess so much petroleum as to make them unfit for such a purpose. On the contrary, the Beaumont oil is no good for petroleum purposes. The specific gravity of Beaumont oil is 22 and 23, while that of Cleveland, Okla., oil is 38. There are only one or two wells in the Beaumont district from which the oil is suitable for dipping purposes; the vats in which the cattle are dipped hold from 400 to 500 gallons of the crude oil.

## WITH THE WORLD'S BEST WRITERS

### WHERE OUR WOMEN FAIL.

The native-born American woman has been made the subject of discussion almost ad nauseam; indeed, it would be a matter for no surprise if she were to regard herself as being apart. Her energy, her brightness, and resourcefulness have been lauded to such an extent that the women of other countries cannot be considered in the same category with her. This, too, is true as far as it goes, and in many qualities the American woman stands supreme. Unfortunately, however, she fails in the most important one of all—that of maternity, and falls in consequence of her cultivation to excess of those attributes which are generally thought not to be within a woman's province. Her physical powers suffer in proportion as her mental powers increase, and as a propagator of the race she cannot compete with women of stronger bodies but of less highly trained brains.—New York Medical Record.

### SPAIN SINCE THE WAR.

Spain is financially better off than when she was loaded down with colonies, which she had for generations administered feebly and corruptly, and which she had become incapable of administering at all. Not only that, but they had forced her to keep a useless navy, and to waste in them capital and energy which were needed at home. If Spain will now establish genuine free government under whatever form, cut off the horde of privileged officeholders who sap her life blood, reduce her army, provide universal free schools, reduce her innumerable holidays to a reasonable basis and turn her attention to the development of her own rich and neglected domain and untouched resources she may enter upon a new and lasting era of greatness.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

### STRATEGY.

What has war taught about strategy? Nothing. The principles of strategy are few, simple, and apparently immutable. They are the same now as they were in Caesar's time, and have never been better epitomized than by Gen. Forest, who said that the art of war consisted in "gettin' thar fustest with the mostest men." The Japanese have managed to do this so far. It is supposed the total number of Japanese soldiers in the field about equals the total number of Russian soldiers. But the Japs had considerably more troops in battle at the mouth of the Yalu, Nanshan hill and Vafangow than the Russians. The Japanese generals, up to the present time, have showed themselves to be the superior strategists.—Chicago Tribune.

### WORK FOR CONVICTS.

"I may never be governor again," said David R. Francis in an address to the recent good roads convention in St. Louis, "but if I were to be I would surely put the convicts on the highways." It might cost the taxpayers a little more to work the state's prisoners on the roads than it does to keep them locked up, but the ultimate results would probably be more profitable to the state than would be the results from any other use they could be put to. The outdoor work would be good for the convicts' health and would, therefore, according to the best authorities, exert a stronger influence upon them than indoor work does, and the products of their labor would not then come into competition with the products of free labor.—Kansas City Journal.

### SCENE IN WHEAT BELT.

One square mile of wheat. Ever see it? Transcontinental trains used to stop in the Smoky Hill valley of Kansas to allow passengers a view of such a wonder. It realized all the travelers' dreams of agricultural splendor. Hundreds such visions now mark the great grain area of the plains, but their beauty is none the less. Six hundred and forty acres of wealth; \$6,000 profit—perhaps more! It shimmered beneath the perfect opalescent blue of the sky, the tall straws bending with their weight of grain. Standing on the seat of the reaper one might see in the distance a glimmer of green pastures and catch glimpses of rustling fields of corn, but here was the heart of summer.—Scribner's.

### USE OF VAST FORTUNES.

Vast accumulations of money always were, and always will be, interesting, but it is obviously difficult for the accumulating individual to make more than a moderate fortune minister to his personal happiness. A very big fortune determines what his occupations shall be, and on what he shall put his mind, but it has not much to do with determining how much satisfaction he shall get out of life. The great office of accumulated wealth is to promote civilization to realize new possibilities of development. When wealth can buy new knowledge for mankind; when it can help a lower race to rise a little, a higher race to rise still more, it is doing about the only thing it can hope to do which is highly important. The more thoughtful of our very rich men seem to realize this. They give money most readily for the spread of knowledge and the discovery of new knowledge. For the relief of suffering they are less solicitous. As is natural, considering their training, they want to do things that will pay; that seem to be scientifically useful. The proportion of their incomes that our richest men spend for their own pleasure is a mere bagatelle. What they don't spend at all immediately becomes productive capital, and a large part of what they give away promotes the spread of knowledge.—Harper's Weekly.

### THE MORALS OF AMERICANS.

Dr. Charles Cuthbert Hall thinks that the moral standard of the American people is degenerating. Dr. Hall is president of the Union Theological Seminary in New York. In the course of an address May 18 before the Religious Educational Association in Chicago he spoke of the "relatively good state of the common morality of the American people," but a deeper examination of the social side of our American life reveals, he thinks, a situation that causes anything but satisfaction. Our activity has astonished the world, "but morally we are rapidly going astern—so rapidly that one is dumfounded at the contrast after a visit to some of the countries of Europe." Religion, he finds, has very little part in our civilization today; our home life might be better, and our people are generally apathetic about their spiritual interests. To much the same intent but more specific are the conclusions of Dr. Coyle of Denver, as disclosed by him May 19 at the opening of the Presbyterian general assembly at Buffalo. He noted the drift of the people away from lofty ideals and from organized Christianity. It meant something, he thought, when conservative observers called our time "the age of graft."—Harper's Weekly.